

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 211201Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9868

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JAKARTA 10282

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO PT ID AS

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE TIMOR

1. AUSTRALIAN DCM SHOWED US TODAY A CABLE FROM AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR LISBON DESCRIBING CONVERSATION OF 1900 HOURS AUGUST 20 WITH PORTUGUESE FONMIN MARIO RUIVO. LATTER INFORMED AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR THAT HE AND PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT HAD JUST BEEN BRIEFED ON TIMOR BY MAJORS MOTA AND JONATOS (MAJOR SUARES ALSO JUST RETURNED BUT HAD NEVER REACHED TIMOR). FIGHTING WIDESPREAD IN DILI AND IN THE COUNTRY AND PORTUGAL DID NOT HAVE MEANS CONTROL. AS A RESULT, EVACUATION MEASURES WERE NECESSARY AND PORTUGAL WAS SEEKING AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE IN THIS. HELP WOULD ALSO BE REQUESTED OF INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR AND THE IRC GEVEVA WAS BEING INFORMED. ACCORDING RUIVO, ABOUT 500 PERSONS INVOLVED, INCLUDING 50 PORTUGUESE TROOPS UNDER SEIGE IN THE MOUNTAINS.

2. ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL, PORTUGUESE FONMIN STATED THAT WITH THE BEST WILL IN THE WORLD, IT APPEARED THAT THE MACAO TIMETABLE COULD NOT BE FULFILLED. PORTUGAL'S INTENT WAS TO LEAVE GOVERNOR PIRES AND A SMALL STAFF OF ABOUT 70 TO ATTEMPT NEGOTIATE A MODUS

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VIVENDI WITH POLITICAL PARTIES. IN THIS WAY PORTUGAL

WOULD RETAIN A SYMBOLIC PRESENCE ON TIMOR. GOP
ALSO CONSIDERING POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
ASSISTANCE: A GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE (IN WHICH
AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA WOULD PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE)
OR PLACING PROBLEMS BEFORE COMMITTEE OF 24. IN ANY
CASE. GOP WILL DISCUSS SITUATION WITH WALDHEIM AND
SEEK HIS ADVICE.

3. IN HIS TELEGRAM, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR INDICATED
HIS BELIEF GOA WOULD PROBABLY GIVE FAVORABLE RESPONSE
TO REQUEST FOR EVACUATION ASSISTANCE. RE IDEA OF APPEAL
TO COMMITTEE OF 24, HE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE
RESERVATION, POINTING OUT THAT SUBJECT WOULD BECOME
POLITICAL INSTEAD OF IDEOLOGICAL, RATHER THAN REASON OR FACT,
HOLDING SWAY. AMBASSADOR FURTHER COMMENTED THAT,
IN VIEW DETERIORATING TIMOR SITUATION AND POSSIBLE
GOP APPEAL, AN INDONESIAN MOVE COULD NOT BE
DISCOUNTED.

4. AUSTRALIAN DCM INFORMED US THAT, IN VIEW FOREGOING
AND ENTIRE TIMOR DEVELOPMENTS, CANBERRA HAS INSTRUCTED
HIM TO RECALL AMBASSADOR WOOLCOTT TO JAKARTA FROM HIS
CURRENT SUMATRA TRIP.
NEWSOM

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